

REDUCE HOME IGNITION RISKS

ASSESSING THE RISKS TO YOUR HOME

When considering your home's "ignition risk," it can be helpful to think about the area around your home, or "home ignition zone." This includes your home at the center and everything within 100 feet (or 30 meters).

WHAT FACTORS AFFECT A HOME'S RISK FOR IGNITION?

A home's ignition risk is determined by its immediate surroundings and the materials used for its construction. The specific location isn't necessarily as influential as the landscape around it.

HOME IGNITION ZONES CAN BE DIVIDED INTO 4 PARTS:

"HOME ZONE"

The home itself and everything within 5 feet of the foundation.

Includes: Fences, decks, porches, and other attachments.

Recommended construction materials: Non-flammable or low flammable for new homes and retrofits — especially with roofs, siding, and windows.

Preventative measures: Remove flammables (debris, mulch, plantings) from roofs, eave lines, gutters, deck/porch surfaces, and within 5 feet of the home and any attachments.

5-30 FEET

Includes: Decks and fences, provides space for emergency fire suppression equipment.

Preventative measures: Keep lawns mowed and well-maintained; well-spaced plantings of low flammability species; swap mulch for rocks, gravel, or stone; remove large fuel packages like firewood piles from this area.

30-100 FEET

Preventative measures: Keep irrigated with low-growing and low-flammable plants; create separation between grasses, shrubs, and trees to avoid fire spreading into taller vegetation in a "fuel ladder" effect; space trees to prevent crowns from touching.

100+ FEET

Research shows that keeping high intensity fire 100 feet from a home will prevent the fire from igniting the home directly.

Preventative measures: Place low-growing plants and well-spaced trees; keep volume of vegetation (fuel) low.



FIREWISE USA® PARTICIPANTS KNOW THE VALUE OF HELPING NEIGHBORS

Firewise USA® provides up to date take-action information to residents that helps them change the outcome of a wildfire in terms of home and neighborhood safety. Residents who participate in the process create an action plan that commits them to a sustained program of wildfire risk reduction that is both physically doable and cost-effective.

CHECKLIST

Research shows taking simple, scientifically proven steps can help reduce the risk of your home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire. Band together with homeowners in your community to follow this list of actions throughout the year.

- ☐ **Clear** — ignitable material such as needles and leaves from roof, gutters, eaves, porches and decks.
- ☐ **Repair** — any loose or missing roof shingles/tiles and caulk any gaps or openings on roof edges.
- ☐ **Cover** — exterior attic vents and install metal wire mesh ($\frac{1}{8}$ inch or smaller) to under-eave and soffit vents.
- ☐ **Relocate** — items kept under decks or porches; swap out vegetation in these areas for rock or gravel.
- ☐ **Replace** — mulch with hardscaping, including rock, gravel or stone.
- ☐ **Remove** — ignitable features within 30 feet of all structures including firewood piles, portable propane tanks and dry and dead vegetation.
- ☐ **Protect** — water dry grass and shrubs, trim brown vegetation and dispose of yard waste.
- ☐ **Prune** — low hanging branches (6-10 feet for taller trees, $\frac{1}{3}$ of tree height for smaller trees); remove any tall grasses, vines and shrubs from under trees.
- ☐ **Contact** — neighbors and create a plan to address shared wildfire safety concerns together.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FIREWISE USA®

Make your home safer from wildfire, help your community to get started, and create a login to begin your application.



FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

BAND TOGETHER

OVERLAPPING HOME IGNITION ZONES AND PUBLIC SPACES

Due to their size, it's very common for home ignition zones to overlap. Many communities also have commonly owned property, including natural or wooded areas that may pose a greater risk. This means that to be most effective, neighbors need to work together to achieve greater wildfire safety.

TOGETHER, COMMUNITY RESIDENTS CAN WORK TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING:

- Assist neighbors who may have difficulty with property upkeep
- Make sure your Homeowner Association (HOA) is "Firewise-friendly" by complying with local vegetation management rules and construction materials usage
- Ensure homes and neighborhoods have legible, clearly marked street names and numbers
- Know "two ways out" of the neighborhood for safe evacuation during a wildfire
- Create phone and text trees to alert residents about local fires
- Learn more about wildfire preparedness and recovery at apci.org/wildfire

WILDFIRES DESTROYED
AN AVERAGE OF
7,115 STRUCTURES
ANNUALLY FROM 2011-2023



REDUCE FUEL THREATS TOGETHER

THREE BIGGEST WILDFIRE BEHAVIOR FACTORS:

1. Topography (lay of the land)
2. Weather (wind speed, relative humidity, and ambient temperature)
3. Fuel (vegetation and man-made structures)

EXTREME WILDFIRE BEHAVIOR, FUEL QUANTITY, AND WEATHER CONDITIONS OFTEN COINCIDE:

- Extended drought
- High winds
- Low humidity
- High temperatures
- Excessive fuel buildup (live and dead vegetation material)

FUEL IS THE ONLY ONE OF THESE FACTORS WITHIN OUR ABILITY TO CONTROL.

Fuel can be: **Dead leaves** and **pine needles** left on decks, in gutters and strewn across lawns can ignite from embers.

Shrubs and low hanging tree limbs that can be reached by fire moving along the ground.

Homes with flammable features. Unprotected attic vents, for example, allow firebrands entry into attics and to the flammable materials within. A burning home is a potential threat to surrounding homes and structures.

